

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
KEY WEST BUREAU**



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MFL-5030  
8 November 1985

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--October 1985

1. GENERAL

The long-awaited initiation of construction of the FBIS housing project on Truman Annex, originally scheduled for 14 October, did not get underway until 30 October and then came to an abrupt halt when workmen uncovered conduits, pilings, and sections of foundations of the old Navy officers' club long since relocated to another site. As removal of this subterranean flotsam was not included in original construction contract, a "change order" amounting to an additional 8K was forwarded to NAVFAC/Charleston prior to continuation of groundwork. As of this writing, work is scheduled to resume on 12 November.

In a related matter, the bureau received a copy of written authorization from the Florida Department of Natural Resources to connect the houses to the city sewer system, hopefully preventing any future difficulty concerning the local sewer moratorium issue (copy forwarded separately).

The bureau's recruiting effort for monitor/editor vacancies suffered a temporary setback when a promising candidate from Albuquerque, New Mexico, advised of her decision to decline our offer of employment in "Paradise" in favor of an offer from another component in the Washington area. Another candidate from the local Naval Security Group Activity is to be tested at the bureau in early November.

Our antenna rehabilitation project contracted to [redacted] Corp. got off to an excellent start on 15 October, but literally came to a crashing halt today when the 80-ft Rohn CATV tower toppled over in the process of being reguyed. The tower fell toward bureau, with the antenna array itself crashing onto roof over main operations area in new wing of building. Fortunately, no one was injured. Aside from loss of CATV tower, other damage

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includes bent I-beam truss in roof section, fence enclosure around base of tower, fence section along west side of operations building, temporary loss of two longwire antennas and two dipole antennas, and crushed lead-in cables running over west side of roof. Dynalectron project manager assured us all damages will be corrected as soon as possible and a written report of incident will be forwarded. "Damage control" is still ongoing as of this writing.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

Even with one monitor on leave most of the month, October was highly productive. Our beloved Fidel was extremely busy squiring around such luminaries as the heads of state or government of India, Zambia, Angola, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, all visiting Cuba either en route to or returning from activities marking the 40th anniversary of the United Nations in New York. Other noteworthy Cuban coverage included reaction to President Reagan's foreign policy address to the United Nations, official protests and demonstrations against continuing overflights by SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft, denunciation of the Western position on apartheid and South Africa, and the arrival of Salvadoran guerrillas released in exchange for the kidnapped daughter of President Duarte. The Third World foreign debt issue slipped from prominence somewhat, but continued to receive heavy play in the Cuban media. Castro also managed to find time to deliver an 80-minute closing speech at the Second National Hygiene and Epidemiology Congress held in Havana. Only notable accomplishment of this congress was the issuance of a declaration on the foreign debt, obviously a key health issue.

The other prominent event in our coverage area was the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Nassau, the Bahamas, from 16 to 22 October. The bureau was able to provide substantial coverage from live and recorded broadcasts over Nassau Domestic Service of significant developments at the meeting. The travels around the Caribbean of Queen Elizabeth II both before and after the Commonwealth meeting also highlighted coverage from this area.

### B. Communications

As promised, the Navy Communications Unit at Boca Chica NAS installed a new Mode I terminal on 14 October which it was hoped would sharply reduce circuit downtime prevalent with the old equipment. However, it quickly became apparent that the new RIXT computer was stripping out all double line feeds and "pinkie

code" blank characters required by the FBIS MIDAS system, resulting in manual handling of all Key West Bureau traffic. NAVCOMMUNIT has been very cooperative in attempting to resolve problem and has forwarded a priority software change proposal to Naval Telecommunications Command in Washington. As yet there is no estimate of how long it will take to resolve software problem.

### C. Cruising

On 27 October Cuba's Radio Rebelde reassigned two of the more powerful medium-wave transmitters in its domestic network to 710 kHz where, 4 days earlier, a new 50-KW Miami-based Spanish station began 24-hr broadcasts beamed to Cuba, Central America and the Caribbean. It is presumed this frequency reassignment effectively blocks reception of the Miami station in central and western Cuba.

A previously unidentified powerful Cuban transmitter on 1160 kHz reappeared on 30 October with a flurry of extended test broadcasts which led to the inauguration on 3 November of Radio Taino, an 11-hour daily service in Spanish and English targeted at tourists and other visitors to Cuba ("Taino" is the name of an extinct Arawak Indian tribe which committed mass suicide rather than yield to the Spanish conquistadores). Although right next to VOA/Radio Marti's powerful beam to Cuba on 1180 kHz, it is unlikely that the new station is interfering with reception of Radio Marti in Cuba.

### D. Technical

Prior to the "mishap" with the CATV tower noted earlier, the antenna maintenance contractor's two-man team had made a good start in rehabilitating the bureau's antenna system. By the end of the month they had excavated, inspected, refurbished and protected against future corrosion all 22 ground anchors, reinforced the corroded footings and base plates on the two 80-ft CATV towers, reguyed a single wooden tower and performed a variety of other essential wood and metal conserving tasks. Dynalelectron submits detailed monthly reports on work accomplished, forwarded separately to FED/ESG.

On 31 October, bureau electronics specialist [ ] STAT STAT [ ] cruising contractor [ ] and myself were escorted by the NAS Public Works facilities engineer to survey various locations on Navy properties in the Key West area which could accommodate a full-length single-wire experimental Beverage antenna oriented on the eastern Caribbean with signals remoted to the bureau via phone lines. This initial inspection revealed there is the possibility of installing a 2,750-ft longwire antenna with a boresight bearing of 131 degrees true north over flat, unobstructed terrain running almost parallel to the NW-SE

runway at Boca Chica airfield. Power and phone lines are available nearby. The only immediately apparent drawback of this site consists of periodic short bursts of radar noise audible all over the airfield on a small portable receiver. This impediment could be overcome by installing impulse noise blanking devices in any receivers fed by this antenna. Further initial testing of this site is planned for early November. The other sites were found to be either too small to accommodate a full-length antenna at the desired orientation, or to present practically insurmountable obstructions on the ground (wetlands, abandoned trash dumps, etc.).

Installation of two special filters in the bureau's most heavily used antenna resulted in the elimination of 90 percent of dozens of spurious signals throughout the mediumwave and much of the shortwave bands. These phantom signals--sometimes called "birdies"--are the result of VOA/Radio Marti's strong signal mixing with other local stations, including Key West airport's ADF beacon.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### Building & Grounds

Delegation of authority has been received to proceed with plan to expand bureau parking area. The local firm awarded this relatively small contract is currently tied up with a major repaving project for the City of Key West and it may be a while before we can be fit into his schedule.

On 26 October a local contractor completed repainting of hallways, kitchen, bathrooms, shower, cruising, commo, and TV monitoring areas.

### IV. VISITS

1. Operations Group Deputy Chief [ ] visited bureau for 1-day TDY on 4 October as the last stop on a long inspection visit.

2. On 4 October Bureau Chief and DC/Ops paid a courtesy call on NAS Commanding Officer Capt. Ray Sullivan for discussion of Navy support to bureau, housing project, and other matters of mutual interest.

3. MOD staff cruising monitor [ ] was on TDY 5-29 October for orientation and training with contract cruiser [ ]

4. Monitor/editor candidate [ ] visited bureau 7-8 October for followup interview, testing, orientation on local living/working conditions.

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5. Panama Bureau Chief Technician [redacted]  
visited bureau TDY 15-18 October.

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6. B&F Branch officer [redacted] visited bureau TDY  
23-24 October for orientation on FBIS field operations.

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7. AG Cuba analyst [redacted] spent a full day's TDY at  
bureau on 31 October at end of swing through Central America.

#### V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Undaunted by the failure of the housing project contractor to initiate work on 14 October--Columbus Day holiday--as promised, a majority of bureau personnel and dependents enjoyed a ceremonious "groundbreaking" champagne barbecue at one of the picnic pavillions adjacent to the site.

Earlier in the month the visit by DC/Ops Bob Schreiner provided another excuse for a party at a reknowned local restaurant attended by a dozen staffers and spouses. The meal and the company were "exquisite."

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[redacted]  
Chief, FBIS Key West Bureau

Attachment:  
Production Report

cc: C/Panama, C/Paraguay Bureaus

## KEY WEST BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR OCTOBER 1985

## I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH: 184,410TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 30,099TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH : 738

	BROADCAST	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	2,575	14,700	21
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER WEEK	MIN	MIN	ISSUES

 III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
 (PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

## BAHAMAS

 Nassau Domestic Service 5,920  
 in English

 Nassau THE TRIBUNE -0-  
 in English

## BARBADOS

 Bridgetown CANA 81,070  
 in English

 Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English 790  
 Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE -0-  
 in English

## BELIZE

 Belize City Domestic Service 640  
 in English

## CUBA

 Havana Domestic Service 21,360  
 in Spanish

 Havana Television Service 41,840  
 in Spanish

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO		<u>1,160</u>
in Spanish		
JAMAICA		
Kingston Domestic Service	<u>170</u>	
in English		
Kingston DAILY GLEANER		<u>-0-</u>
in English		
Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER		<u>-0-</u>
in English		
MEXICO		
Mexico City NOTIMEX		<u>26,480</u>
in Spanish		
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		
Bonaire Trans World Radio	<u>3,420</u>	
in English		
THE NETHERLANDS		
Hilversum International Service	<u>150</u>	
in English		
OTHER SOURCES:		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena		
in Spanish	<u>540</u>	
SURINAME		
Paramaribo International Service		
in English	<u>870</u>	